

The Progress of the War.

We compile and condense from the *Christian* the following reported facts, as said to be furnished by an officer of Gordon's corps. Some of this matter we have had before, but in order to a consecutive narrative, we reconcile ourselves to a repetition:

On the 25th March, Gen. Lee made a demonstration on the left of Grant, capturing Har's Hill and other neighboring works. From that time till April 2, the skirmishing was heavy and incessant, Grant meanwhile throwing the main part of his army to the South side, and massing in front of our right, which was near the Petersburg Railroad.

At daylight, on Sunday, April 2, a general issue was joined from mortars and artillery. The forces here to meet the enemy consisted of the corps of Hill, (A. P.) Anderson and Gordon—the corps of Longstreet being in the defenses of Richmond. The attack of the enemy was at once heavy and impetuous. They were repeatedly repulsed and driven back, but finally, their overwhelming numbers prevailed. In columns six deep, they broke through our defenseless right and left. Gordon's corps succeeded in driving from the front, but proved unable to dislodge them from the position taken on the right. All this was immediately in front of Petersburg. On our extreme right, after frequent charges and after enduring great slaughter, our ammunition having become exhausted, the enemy captured Burgess Hill, on Hatcher's Run; and though our troops fought with clubbed muskets, they were overwhelmed and surrendered. The spirit of the troops was everywhere good, but the physical capacity was unequal to the spirit. The lines once broken, various other works were carried in succession. A large part of Pickett's division was captured. So was Gen. Lee's headquarters, and the enemy, that night, advanced to a point within two miles of Petersburg, and held possession of the South-side Railway. We lost largely in prisoners this day. Our loss in slain and wounded was small in degree with the magnitude of the engagements—a fact due to our entrenchments. Gen. A. P. Hill was killed, struck by several balls, at the head of his command. Gen. Gordon escaped unhurt.

The result of this engagement was such as to render necessary the evacuation of Petersburg and Richmond. The paramount object was to save the army. On Sunday night, Gen. Lee retired in the direction of Amelia Court House, in a westerly direction from Petersburg and on the road to Lynchburg.

Monday, April 3.—Gen. Longstreet, who had successfully escaped from Richmond with his column, joined the main army before day. Some desultory fighting took place, the enemy closely pursuing with mounted and regular infantry and cavalry. The artillery took every occasion to throw shells at our wagon trains, and before night we burned some of the wagons to prevent them from falling into Federal hands. The spirit of the men, notwithstanding their reverses, was excellent, and in all the encounters with the enemy, they fought with their usual valor.

Tuesday, April 4.—The enemy harassed our rear not a little; and, when near Farmville, captured a considerable number of wagons—among them one containing the wife of Brig. Gen. Clement A. Evans. Marched nearly all night.

Wednesday, April 5.—The Federals still pressing, but with little fighting.

Thursday, April 6.—This was not only the most trying day of the retreat, but the severest tax upon the endurance of the men engaged, which they have experienced in many months. The fighting was almost incessant. The enemy appeared to be determined to bring the army to a stand, and in these attempts captured many wagons. Gordon's corps held the rear. A battery of artillery was also lost. Brig. Gen.

Lewis, commanding Pegram's old brigade, severely wounded. Our cavalry skirmishing constantly and holding the enemy in check.

In the evening, Gordon's corps was relieved by Mahone's division. The Federals attacked in force. Mahone received their charges com placently, and while they were in progress, sent a couple of his tried regiments to the Yankee rear, who captured a thousand men, including a major and brigadier general.

Friday, April 7.—Heavy rain, which prevented active operations on both sides. Roads heavy, wagons and artillery stalled, and the two armies manœuvring for position.

Saturday, April 8.—Gen. Longstreet's corps in the rear and Gordon's in front, the enemy worked their way along our flanks, and our rear was but little annoyed; at night, some of their cavalry found their way to the front, and captured a large number of our wagons and a portion of our artillery at Appomattox C. H.

The next day, our army reached this place, on the road to Lynchburg. Gen. Thomas, with his army, had arrived before us and effected a junction with Grant; cavalry, infantry and artillery completely surrounded our little command. We had from five to eight thousand prisoners, and only eight thousand effective fighting men, with muskets, all told. The supply of ammunition was nearly exhausted. In this emergency, Gen. Lee determined, if possible, to cut his way through, and if he could do so, save at least the remnant of his army. Orders were issued for a grand charge, and our troops were massed accordingly.

Gen. Grimes' division led the charge, followed successively by two others. The engagement commenced shortly after sunrise, and was continued enthusiastically until our men had broken through the Federal lines, driven them for nearly a mile and a half, and captured several pieces of artillery, besides some hundreds of prisoners. The old spirit of fight was unsub dued. Meanwhile, a heavy force of cavalry threatened our flanks. For some cause, not stated, Gen. Lee issued orders to the troops to cease firing and withdraw.

Subsequently, an officer—said to be General Custar, of the Yankee cavalry—entered our lines, bearing a flag of truce. Whether his appearance was in response to a request from Gen. Lee, or he was the bearer of a formal demand for surrender, initiated by Gen. Grant, we are not informed. At this time, our army was in line of battle on or near the Appomattox Road, the skirmishers thrown out, while two hundred and fifty yards in front of these, on an eminence, was a large body of Federal cavalry. The coup d'œil is described as magnificent.

Soon after the return of Gen. Custar to his lines, Gen. Grant, accompanied by his staff, rode to the headquarters of Gen. Lee, which were under an apple tree, near the road. The interview is described as exceedingly impressive. After the customary formalities, which doubtless were brief and business-like, Gen. Lee tendered his sword to Grant in token of surrender. That officer, however, declined to receive it, or receiving, declined to retain it, and accompanied its return with substantially the following remark: "Gen. Lee, keep that sword. You have won it by your gallantry. You have not been whipped, but overpowered, and I cannot receive it as a token of surrender from so brave a man." Such is the report of the conversation made to us. The reply of Gen. Lee we do not know. Both Grant and himself are said to have been deeply affected by the solemnity of the occasion, and to have shed tears. This scene occurred between 10 and 11 o'clock a. m.

When the sad event became known to the army, officers and men gave way to their emotions, and some among the veterans wept like children. A considerable number swore that they never would surrender, and made their way to the woods. Generals Gary, of this State, and Resser, of Virginia, with a few followers, cut their way out and escaped. But

the bulk of the army was obliged to accept the proffered terms.

These were—capitulation with all the honors of war, officers to retain their side arms and personal property, and the men their baggage. Each one was thereupon paroled, and allowed to go his way.

The force of the Yankee army is estimated at 200,000 men. Our own at the time of surrender embraced not more than 8,000 effective infantry and 3,000 cavalry, but it is said that the total number paroled was about 23,000 men of all arms and conditions.

During Sunday and Monday, a large number of Federal soldiers and officers visited our camps, and looked curiously on our commands, but there was nothing like exultation, no shouting for joy, and no word uttered that could add to the mortification already sustained. On the contrary, every symptom of respect was manifested, and the Southern army was praised for the brave and noble manner in which it had defended our cause.

All the Federals spoke of Gen. Lee in terms of unbounded praise. The remark was frequently made, "He would receive as many cheers in going down our lines as Gen. Grant himself."

It is understood that Gen. Lee and Longstreet, and other officers, are now on parole in the city of Richmond.

The following is a copy of General Lee's address to his army, issued after its surrender to Gen. Grant at Appomattox Court House, on Sunday, the 9th of April, 1865:

HEADQUARTERS ARMY NORTHERN VIRGINIA,
April 10, 1865.

General Order No. 9.

After four years of arduous service, marked by unsurpassed courage and fortitude, the Army of Northern Virginia has been compelled to yield to overwhelming numbers and resources.

I need not tell the brave survivors of so many hard-fought battles, who have remained steadfast to the last, that I have consented to this result from no distrust of them. But feeling that valor and devotion could accomplish nothing that could compensate for the loss that would have attended the continuance of the contest, I determined to avoid the useless sacrifice of those whose past services have endeared them to their countrymen.

By the terms of the agreement, officers and men can return to their homes and remain until exchanged. You will take with you the satisfaction that proceeds from the consciousness of duty faithfully performed, and I earnestly pray that a merciful God will extend to you His blessing and protection.

With an unfeigned admiration of your constancy and devotion to your country, and a grateful remembrance of your kind and generous consideration for myself, I bid you an affectionate farewell. R. E. LEE, General.

Sherman's cavalry occupied Lincoln, N. C., on Monday afternoon, at 5 o'clock. At last accounts, they were about five miles from the railroad bridge over the Catawba, which they had burnt.

A large number of paroled men belonging to Lee's army have arrived in this city, en route to their several homes. It is stated that the cavalry were allowed to retain their horses.

AUCTION SALES.

By L. T. Levin,
JOSEPH SAMSON, SALESMAN.

Will be sold, on MONDAY MORNING, 24th inst., opposite Dr. Gaiser's office, at 10 o'clock,

The following articles of FURNITURE: Tables, Chairs, Bedsteads, Bureaus, Bed and Bedding, Mattresses, Kitchen Utensils, Crockery and a variety of other articles.

Conditions cash. April 21st.
Unlimited articles received until hour of sale.